

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of distributing and laying, inside a building, optical fiber cables drawn into the building from a trunk cable, the method comprising passing the optical fiber cables through the inside of a gutter or drain pipe,

wherein a support having concavo-convex portions is provided with which a plurality of optical fiber cables is placed and supported inside the gutter or drain pipe around an outer circumference of the support, so that the optical fiber cables can be lead through the gutter or drain pipe and water may pass through a center cavity of the support.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of distributing and laying optical fiber cables of claim 1, wherein the occupied cross-sectional area of the optical fiber cables passed through the inside of the gutter or drain pipe is equal to or less than 50% of the cross-sectional area of the inside of the gutter or drain pipe.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of distributing and laying optical fiber cables of claim 1 or 2, wherein a branch pipe is connected to the gutter or drain pipe, and wherein at the portion where the branch pipe is connected to the gutter or drain pipe, the optical fiber cables passed through the

inside of the gutter or drain pipe are gathered at an inner side of the gutter or drain pipe opposite to the connection portion.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of distributing and laying optical fiber cables of claim 1 or 2, wherein a partition plate is disposed inside the gutter or drain pipe.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of distributing and laying optical fiber cables of claim 1 or 2, wherein a sheath tube is passed through the inside of the gutter or drain pipe, and wherein the optical fiber cables are passed through the sheath tube.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of distributing and laying optical fiber cables of claim 1 or 2, wherein sheath tubes having a plurality of sheath portions laterally coupled together are passed through the inside of the gutter or drain pipe, and wherein the optical fiber cables are passed through the sheath tubes.

Claim 7 (Canceled).